

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CU-02 BIB-01 OMB-01 ACDA-07  
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05  
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /082 W  
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R 100750Z MAR 77  
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9829  
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST  
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST  
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AMEMBASSY SOFIA  
USMISSION NATO  
USMISSION USUN  
AMEMBASSY VIENNA  
AMCONSUL ZAGREB

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 1440

EO 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR PINT YO  
SUBJ: MEWS MANAGEMENT YUGOSLAV STYLE

1. MARCH 3 CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR COLUMN BY ERIC  
BOURNE TELLS US THAT MILOVAN DJILAS HAS "OFTEN SHOWED  
POOR JUDGMENT IN HIS CRITICISMS OF THE REGIME" AND THAT  
HIS RECENT COMMENTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN YUGOSLAVIA ARE  
ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF HIS "OFTEN CONFUSED AND AMBIVALENT  
APPROACH TO THE FACTS OF TODAY'S YUGOSLAVIA."

2. BOURNE'S OPINION MUST COINCIDE CLOSELY WITH THAT OF  
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THE YUGOSLAV LEADERSHIP. HE IS REPUTED TO ENJOY EXCELLENT  
ACCESS TO THAT LEADERSHIP, AND HIS COMMENTS ON DJILAS  
MAY BE INFLUENCED BY HIS DESIRE TO MAINTAIN THEIR FAVOR.

3. AT THE SAME TIME THERE IS EVIDENCE THAT THE GOY  
COVERTLY INFLUENCES JOURNALISTS REPORTING FROM BELGRADE.  
IT IS GENERALLY BELIEVED THAT JOURNALISTS OF

YUGOSLAV NATIONALITY ARE PARTICULARLY VULNERABLE TO PRESSURES AND RECRUITMENT BY YUGOSLAV AUTHORITIES.

4. DESA TREVISAN, WHO WRITES FOR THE LONDON TIMES, IS ONE OF THE BEST INFORMED CORRESPONDENTS IN BELGRADE. SHE WAS MARRIED TO BOURNE AND IS OF YUGOSLAV ORIGIN. HER REPORTS ARE BOTH WELL-DOCUMENTED AND SYMPATHETIC TO THE YUGOSLAVS.

5. THE RESIDENT ASSOCIATED PRESS CORRESPONDENT BORISLAV BOSKOVIC IS A YUGOSLAV WHOSE REPORTING IS CONSISTENTLY MORE FAVORABLE TO THE YUGOSLAV GOVT THAN THAT OF UPI OR REUTERS, WHICH MAINTAIN FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS HERE.

6. EVEN WHERE A FOREIGN NEWS ORGANIZATION HAS A FOREIGN NATIONAL WORKING HERE, HIS OFFICE IS TYPICALLY STAFFED AS WELL BY YUGOSLAVS, WHO ARE AT LEAST VULNERABLE TO POLICE PRESSURES AND T MOST ACTIVELY COLLABORATING WITH THE POLICE.

7. THE YUGOSLAVS ALSO EMPLOY THE LEAK. LAST FALL A YUGOSLAV JOURNALIST "DROPPED IN" ON THE AMERICAN UPI CORRESPONDENT TO GIVE HIM A DETAILED ACCOUNT OF SOVIET PRESSURES DURING THE BREZHNEV VISIT HERE -- WHICH THE AMERICAN SENT OUR LARGELY WITHOUT QUALIFICATION. MORE RECENTLY LEAGUE OF COMMUNISTS' INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS SECRETARY GRICKOV, ON BACKGROUND, TOLD WESTERN NEWSMEN OF AN UPCOMING AMNESTY FOR POLITICAL PRISONERS IN WHAT CONFIDENTIAL

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APPEARS TO BE AN ATTEMPT TO QUIET CRITICISM OF THE YUGOSLAV RECORD ON HUMAN RIGHTS.

8. WHILE WE DO NOT WANT TO MAKE A PRACTICE OF COMMENTING UPON SPECIFIC FOREIGN PRESS ARTICLES ABOUT YUGOSLAVIA AND CERTAINLY DO NOT WISH TO DEFEND THE PROPOSITION THAT SYMPATHETIC REPORTS ARE NECESSARILY UNJUSTIFIED NOR THAT DJILAS IS NECESSARILY OBJECTIVE, READERS OF THE AMERICAN, BRITISH AND OTHER WESTERN PRESS SHOULD BE AWARE OF THE GOY'S ABILITY TO INFLUENCE FOREIGN NEWS COVERAGE, BOTH THROUGH ITS INFLUENCE ON CERTAIN REPORTERS AND BY SKILLFUL LEAKS. YORK

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## Message Attributes

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